

only in America, but in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Mr. Speaker, if not for the heroic actions of Father Clements on that day, I would not be standing here in the well of the House on this very day.

Father Clements just didn't stop on that infamous day of December 4, 1969. Throughout the years, countless others have also benefited from Father George Clements' boundless love for humanity. In 1980, he started the Catholic church's first One Church One Child program, an effort to increase the adoption rate of African-American orphans. He took this noble, gigantic step so to heart that, in 1981 he himself adopted a child; something that had been unheard of in the history of the Catholic church: a Catholic priest adopting a child.

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He did not stop there, Father Clements. He has taken personal responsibility for and adopted other children. He has been an excellent father to four wonderful children: Joey, Friday, Stewart, and Saint Anthony.

Father Clements' selfless devotion to humanity did not stop there. After retiring from the Holy Angels Catholic Church in 1994, Father Clements made his way to our Nation's Capital. He came here to Washington, D.C., to establish the One Church-One Addict program beginning here in our Nation's Capital.

Mr. Speaker, as some of us more seasoned folks in this Chamber may recall, this was a time when our Nation's Capital was known as the "murder capital" of America. This fact did not deter Father Clements from seeking to help those in need, from trying to be a solution to a highly recognized problem. Father Clements' unboundless love was in full effect once again. Even after all of his years of selfless, sacrificial, hard work, Father Clements still had more to give.

In 1999, he established the One Church-One Inmate program, which was a shared effort to help prison inmates and their families by helping inmates transition from incarceration to a life as productive and "spiritually healed," law-abiding citizens.

What a remarkable man Father George C. Clements was, and what a remarkable man he is this very day.

The Nation, Hollywood has recognized this glorious man. They made a movie after him, called, "The Father Clements Story," where the award-winning actor Lou Gossett starred as Father Clements.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Father Clements has been a beacon of light during the dark days of our Nation. He has been a community leader, a selfless advocate for the downtrodden, and above all, he has been a true and loyal friend to those who are in need. He is a religious man who walks the walk just as he talks the talk.

I can speak no better words for this great American hero, Father George C.

Clements, no better words than those that are taken from the Bible, from Holy Scriptures. Let me close, Mr. Speaker, with these very words taken from the Book of Proverbs at 22:9. The Bible says: "He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor." This is the manner, the mind of the man, Father George C. Clements.

Mr. Speaker, I honor, I love, I am grateful for, and I am indebted to the remarkable love and work, commitment and dedication of my friend Father George C. Clements.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), my colleague, my comrade, my cohort, my coconspirator, my friend from the Seventh District of Illinois.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I know that Congressman RUSH has extolled the virtues of Father Clements sufficiently, and I certainly won't need 45 or 46 additional minutes to do that; but I can tell you that Father George Clements is an exemplary, extraordinary, unordinary man, a priest of the highest order, but a man who adopted four sons, and he has just been tributed not only here, but certainly back in our hometown of Chicago, Illinois.

The thing about his four sons that he adopted, being a single priest, that was not the easiest thing in the world to do. But all four of them have become outstanding individuals everywhere they have been throughout America.

Father Clements not only saved my colleague at a time of great peril, at a time of great need, which demonstrated tremendous courage, but down through the years, he has continued to provide creative leadership and great initiatives, especially as related to children and the needs that they had—One Church-One Child, One Church-One Family, one church helping individuals who were in need of help.

Mr. Speaker, I join with Congressman RUSH in paying tribute to this outstanding humanitarian, Father George Clements.

TRIBUTE TO MS. RUTH LIFE, EDUCATOR, FRIEND, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I also come to the floor to give tribute to a lady, Ms. Ruth Life, an educator, friend, and community activist.

I have been fortunate, Mr. Speaker, to have known many outstanding individuals during my lifetime, but never have I known anyone more outstanding, more passionate, more consistent, more reliable, or more giving of herself than Ms. Ruth Life, whom I met in the 1960s.

I met Ms. Life during the time when community activism was at a serious, high level, especially in the city of Chicago, Illinois, where I come from. Ms. Life, like many of our generation, was involved, actively engaged in efforts to make life for people who lived in the communities where we lived and worked better.

Both of us worked for the Chicago Public Schools system at that time. We were working in District 10, where Mr. Joseph Rosen was superintendent of schools and Ms. Ida Mae "Ma" Fletcher, as we called her, was the leading school activist.

As time went on, I left the teaching profession but continued to run into Ms. Life at meetings and church activities. When it came to teaching, there were none better.

As she became the assistant principal at the Roswell B. Mason Elementary School, she was creative, encouraging, and imaginative. When you walked into Roswell B. Mason Elementary School, you knew that teachers were teaching and students were learning.

Thirty-eight years is a long time to teach and educate, but Ms. Life spent a lifetime of service to humanity, especially through her church, the People's Church of the Harvest Church of God in Christ, where Michael Eaddy is the pastor and visionary. Their church has just recently developed a \$13 million housing project through their community development association, of which Ms. Life was secretary.

As she passes away and moves to another level of being, I can almost hear the Master speaking to her, saying: "Well done, my good, and faithful servant. You have done exceptionally well here on Earth. Now I invite you to come on up to the bosom of Abraham, where you can rest in peace and spend eternity."

Mr. Speaker, I am so delighted to have had this opportunity to exemplify the life of this outstanding woman, Ms. Ruth Life.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 244) "An Act to encourage effective, voluntary investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual Federal awards to employers recognizing such efforts, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 244.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. NEWHOUSE (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for May 3 and the balance of the week on account of a family illness.